

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of January 18, 2007 is respectfully requested.

In order to make necessary editorial corrections, the entire specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised. As the revisions are quite extensive, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected elected claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by the Nakagawa reference (USP 6,787,931). However, the Examiner indicated that elected dependent claims 3-6 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Consequently, original claims 1-18 have now been cancelled and replaced with new claims 19-28, including new independent claims 19, 23, and 27. It is submitted that all of the new claims read on the elected invention of Group I. Furthermore, for the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

New independent claim 19 has been drafted to include the subject matter of original base independent claim 2 and allowable dependent claim 3. Although some of the language of the original claims has been slightly modified so as to place the original claims in a preferred form, it is submitted that these modifications are directed merely to matters of form not affecting the scope of the claims. Consequently, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 19 and the claims that depend therefrom are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

New independent claim 23 has been drafted to include the subject matter of original base independent claim 1 and allowable dependent claim 3. Although some of the original language has been slightly modified so as to place the original claims in a preferred form, it is submitted that these modifications are directed merely to matters of form not affecting the scope of the claims. Consequently, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is

respectfully submitted that new independent claim 23 and the claims that depend therefrom are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

Finally, new independent claim 27 has been drafted to include the subject matter of original base independent claim 1 and allowable dependent claim 4. Although some of the original language has been slightly modified so as to place the original claims in a preferred form, it is submitted that these modifications are merely directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the claims. Consequently, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 27 and the claim that depends therefrom are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Koji SASAKI

By: 

W. Douglas Hahm
Registration No. 44,142
Attorney for Applicant

WDH/akl
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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